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The Urban District Council of Uxbridge.

Annual Medical Report

FOR THE YEAR 1938

By
W. TOWNSEND DOBSON, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.)
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

King & Hutchings, Ltd., Printers, Uxbridge.

Uxbridge Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1938-9.

COUNCILLOR MRS. C. E. BROWNE (*Chairman*).
,, S. E. BISHOP.
,, W. E. BLACK.
,, REV. L. BOUCH.
,, W. H. BURROWS.
,, J. COCHRANE.
,, W. H. COX.
,, MRS. S. H. DUBBERLEY.
,, MAJOR E. W. C. FLAVELL, M.C.
,, H. J. S. HARVEY.
,, E. F. JEFFERY.
,, W. E. LORDING.
,, W. E. MADDOCK.
,, MRS. M. E. ODELL.
,, J. E. POND.
,, A. T. PRICE.
,, SQD. LDR. N. STEELE.
,, T. R. THIRTLE.
,, A. THORNLEY.
,, A. W. YATES.

The Chairman of the Council (Councillor H. A. Leno)
and the Vice-Chairman of the Council (Councillor W. G. Pomeroy)
were ex-officio Members.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health—

W. Townsend Dobson, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.)
(Part time.)

Senior Sanitary Inspector—

T. C. F. Paige, M.S.I.A.
(Certificates of the Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board and The Royal Sanitary Institute.)
(Whole time.)

Sanitary Inspectors—
(Whole time.)

V. E. Baughan, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
(Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Science Certificate, Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate and Smoke Inspector's Certificate.)
(1st Class Certificate Home Office Civilian Anti-Gas School, Falfield.)

B. W. E. Makepeace, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
(Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.

E. W. Budd, A.R.San.I.
(Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute.)
Resigned 30th April, 1938.

S. A. Cash, A.R.San.I.
(Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute.)
Appointed 27th June, 1938.

Clerk—

A. J. Benson.
(Certificate Royal Institute Public Health and Hygiene.)

Junior Clerk—

R. B. Rowlands.

Shorthand-Typist—

Miss M. H. Stanbridge.

Annual Report
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1938

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
259, HIGH STREET,
UXBRIDGE.

June, 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE UXBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1938 upon the health and conditions of the Urban District of Uxbridge. This Report has been compiled in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health Circular No. 1728, and for convenience of reference an Index has been incorporated at the end.

I consider that the health of the Uxbridge Urban District is most satisfactory —you will see later in the Report that our birth rate is higher than that for England and Wales and our death rate lower. I would particularly draw your attention to the comment upon comparisons in birth and death rates of districts.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

GEOGRAPHY OF THE DISTRICT.

The Urban District of Uxbridge occupies the north-western angle of the County of Middlesex, and its western boundary for the greater portion of its length follows the River Colne.

The Frays River, a distributary of the Colne, leaves the main stream at Denham Lock, and joins it again at Yiewsley. The Pinn, a small stream which rises near Pinner, flows through Ickenham in a south-westerly direction, on through Swakeleys, turning south through the Royal Air Force Depot, continuing through Lowe & Shawyer's Nurseries, and ultimately joins up with the River Colne at Yiewsley.

The London-Birmingham section of the Grand Union Canal traverses the western boundary, running parallel with the Colne, and it is on the banks of this Canal that the more important industries of the District are situate.

The District is mainly flat, but at Harefield it rises 291 feet above sea level, and at Hillingdon Church and Pole Hill Road, Hillingdon, 188 feet. Uxbridge Common, in Park Road, has an altitude of 200 feet, and is a healthy open space with a fine view across the valley to Harrow-on-the-Hill. In an easterly direction on clear days there is an unobstructed view over London to the hills at Sydenham from the Common and Pole Hill Road—a distance of over 20 miles. To the west there is the valley of the Colne.

GEOLOGICAL FEATURES.

The geological structure of the District is of an interesting, though somewhat complicated nature. In the River Valleys there are the " Barton Beds "—alluvial ballast ; whilst at Hillingdon and Harefield there are beds of glacial gravel, and at Harefield an outcrop of chalk and beds of sand. Cowley lies on a bed of brick earth, whilst Ickenham stands on London Clay, and North Hillingdon on London Clay and the " Reading Beds " (mottled clay). It is interesting to note that the glacial gravel—a result of the Great Ice Age—does not extend much further south than Uxbridge.

AREA.

Total area of District ... ... 10,237·363 acres.

I am unable to give the acreage of the District set out in the new Wards which came into being on 1st April, 1938, when the rearrangement of the District took place and Parishes were abolished. I hope this information will be available for incorporation in my Report next year.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's Estimate of Population for the mid-year 1938 is 42,800 persons, showing an increase of 850 upon the figure given for 1937.

ESTIMATED POPULATION AT END OF YEAR.

In view of the rearrangement of the District which took place during the year under review I am unable to give estimates of population for the new Wards, but the estimated total population at end of the year 1938 was 47,309 persons.

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES AT THE END OF YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE RATE BOOKS.

Total 11,598

I am unable to give the numbers of inhabited houses for individual Wards.

RATEABLE VALUE.

1936.	1937.	1938.
£312,654	£332,220	£356,322

PRODUCT OF A PENNY RATE.

(Estimated.)

1936.	1937.	1938.
£1,230	£1,350	£1,450

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

An examination of the 1931 Census statistics shows that our population is " old "—*i.e.* there is a large proportion of elderly people. The effect of this is discussed under the heading " Comparisons of Vital Statistics."

INDUSTRIES.

The working-class population is engaged in many industries, which include Saw Mills, Welding Works, Ticket and other Printing Works, Rubber Works, Engineering, Manufacture of Steel Tanks and Drums, Ticket Punches, Washing Machines, Adding Machines, Automaticket Machines, etc., Plating Works, Market

Gardening, Culture of Flowers, Laundries, Brewing, Distemper Manufacture, Agriculture, Milling, Manufacture of Furniture and Joinery, Beehives and Bee-keepers' Appliances, Extraction of Sand, Gravel and Shingle, and Chalk, and the Manufacture of Concrete Bricks and Pipes. I might add that the two large film studios in an adjoining area find employment for a considerable number of Uxbridge residents. The District is developing rapidly, and consequently many people are absorbed in the building and allied trades. Many City workers have their homes here, and travel backward and forward by train or coach.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The following table shows the numbers of persons registered on the Uxbridge Employment Exchange.

1937				1938			
January		*December*		*January*		*December*	
Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
524	151	730	281	712	297	926	235

This gives a total unemployment figure in December, 1937, of 1,011, and in December, 1938, of 1,161, an increase of 150.

I very much regret that the above table again shows an increase in the unemployment figures.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS AND INVALIDITY.

I have been unable to discover any particular or unusual cause of sickness or invalidity during the year. I do not think I can make any comment on any special occupation or environment which has a prejudicial effect on the health of the inhabitants of the area.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

COMPARISON OF VITAL STATISTICS.

When comparing the vital statistics of Districts one must have regard to the full circumstances and not solely to the rates which are to be compared. For example :—

Birth Rate.—Regard must be had to sex distribution, marital conditions and the numbers of women of child-bearing age. If the birth rate is calculated solely on the estimated population, then it may appear that the birth rate in one District is considerably lower than that in another. If then we examine the other conditions outlined above and correct our rates in proportion we would possibly find that the rate in that District which formerly seemed low was higher than that in the other area.

Unfortunately the figures which have to be provided in this Report are specified by the Ministry to be based upon the Registrar-General's estimated population, and these I have given.

Death Rate.—In order that a fair comparison could be made between the death rates of various Districts the Registrar-General has issued what is known as a Comparability Factor to each Medical Officer of Health. In the case of this District the factor is 1·08. The factor may be said to represent the *population handicap* to be applied to the area, and, *when multiplied by the crude death rate experienced in the area, modifies the latter so as to make it comparable with the crude death rate for the country as a whole or with the similarly adjusted death rate for any other area.*

The effect of this is to allow for sex and age distribution of the inhabitants of Districts.

TOTAL BIRTHS.

Sex.	*Live Legitimate.*	*Live Illegitimate.*	*Stillborn Legitimate.*	*Stillborn Illegitimate.*	*Total.*
Males	369	22	10	1	402
Females	357	17	16	2	392
Totals ...	726	39	26	3	794

BIRTH RATE.

	No.		*Birth Rate.*	*Basis.*
LIVE BIRTHS	726	Legitimate	16·963	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population
	39	Illegitimate	0·911	
	765	Total	17·874	
STILL BIRTHS	26	Legitimate	32·746	Per 1,000 total (i.e., live and still) births.
	3	Illegitimate	3·778	
	29	Total	36·524	
TOTAL BIRTHS	752	Legitimate	17·570	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population.
	42	Illegitimate	0·981	
	794	Total	18·551	

The birth rate for the year under review was 18·551 per thousand, which may be compared with the figure of 17·569 for the preceding year.

The corresponding figures for England and Wales were 14·8 and 15·7 respectively.

I have to report an increase in the still birth rate from 29·850 to 36·524 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

Uxbridge has a death rate considerably lower than that of England and Wales and the Great and Smaller Towns.

I am pleased to report a decrease in the death rate from 11·198 to 9·437 per 1,000 Registrar-General's Estimated Resident Population.

	Total Deaths (All Causes)		Death Rate Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population	
	1937	1938	1937	1938
Male	231	202	6·024	5·098
Female	201	172	5·174	4·339
Total	435	374	11·198	9·437

In the following table you will see the number of deaths from certain diseases during the year :—

Disease.	*No. of Deaths.*	*Rates per* 1,000 *Population.*
Heart Disease	81	1·90
Cancer	53	1·24
Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	17	0·40
Cerebral Haemorrhage	7	0·16
Influenza	2	0·05
Pneumonia (all forms)	20	0·46
Bronchitis	10	0·23
Kidney Disease	6	0·14
Measles (all ages)	2	0·05
Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Diphtheria	3	0·07
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	—	—
Appendicitis	4	0·09

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

I have to report that there were two deaths from Puerperal Sepsis during 1938, compared with one during the previous year. The number of deaths from other Puerperal causes has increased from one in 1937 to three in 1938.

	No. of Deaths.	*Rate per* 1,000 *Total (Live and Still) Births.*
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis...	2	2·519
Deaths from other Puerperal causes	3	3·778
Totals	5	6·297

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Death Rate.*
All Infants ...	27	15	42	54·902 *per* 1,000 *live births.*
Legitimate Infants	25	15	40	55·096 *per* 1,000 *legitimate live births.*
Illegitimate Infants	2	—	2	51·282 *per* 1,000 *illegitimate live births.*

The number of deaths of infants under one year has increased from 41 during 1937 to 42 during the year under review. The rate has dropped from 57·343 to 54·902, due to the increase in the number of live births.

STREET ACCIDENTS.

By courtesy of the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis I am able to give the following information from a return of street accidents resulting in death and personal injury during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1938, within the Uxbridge Urban District.

During the year there were eight fatal accidents, an increase of one upon last year's figure.

FATAL ACCIDENTS.

Date & Time.	*Location.*	*Sex and Age.*	*Brief Particulars.*
22/1/38 (7.50 p.m.)	Cowley Road, junction of Queens Road	Male, 34	Pedestrian knocked down by private car.
3/3/38 (10.45 p.m.)	Western Avenue, 1,000 yards east of Long Lane	Male, 45	Pedal cyclist in collision with two private cars.
3/4/38 (7 p.m.)	Breakspear Road, 150 yards north of Warren Farm	Male, 50	Pedal cyclist falls from machine.
10/4/38 (11.59 p.m.)	Hillingdon Hill, 5 yards west of Vine Lane	Male, 36	Driver of private car—collision with trolleybus.
29/4/38 (9.45 a.m.)	Long Lane, 5 yards north of Milton Road	Male, 18	Driver of private car—collision with goods van and cable of agricultural plough.
15/8/38 (11.45 a.m.)	Uxbridge Road, 80 yards east of Lees Road	Male, 13	Pedal cyclist collides with motor lorry.
15/10/38 (4.50 p.m.)	Dual carriageway, east-bound Section Western Avenue, 1 mile west of West End Road	Male, 8	Pedestrian knocked down by private car.
26/11/38 (4.48 p.m.)	Western Avenue, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Long Lane	Female, 51	Pedestrian knocked down by private car.

OTHER ACCIDENTS.

34 accidents involving serious personal injury.

226 accidents involving slight personal injury.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH RATES, AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1938.

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.)

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.)

	Uxbridge	*England and Wales*	126 *County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London*	148 *Smaller Towns, Resident Populations* 25,000 *to* 50,000 *at* 1931 *Census*	*London Administrative County*
	Rates per 1,000 *Population.*				
BIRTHS :—					
Live	17·874	15·1	15·0	15·4	13·4
Still	0·677	0·60	0·65	0·60	0·48
DEATHS :—					
All causes	9·437	11·6	11·7	11·0	11·4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ...	0·233	0·00	0·0	0·00	0·00
Smallpox	0·000	0·00	—	0·00	—
Measles	0·047	0·04	0·05	0·03	0·06
Scarlet fever ...	0·000	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Whooping cough ...	0·000	0·03	0·03	0·02	0·03
Diphtheria	0·070	0·07	0·07	0·06	0·05
Influenza	0·047	0·11	0·10	0·11	0·06
Violence	—	—	—	—	—
NOTIFICATIONS :—					
Smallpox	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	—
Scarlet fever ...	2·05	2·41	2·60	2·58	2·05
Diphtheria	1·75	1·58	1·85	1·53	1·90
Enteric fever	0·02	0·03	0·03	0·04	0·05
Erysipelas	0·33	0·40	0·46	0·39	0·46
Pneumonia	0·75	1·10	1·28	0·98	0·98
	Rates per 1,000 *Live Births.*				
DEATHS :—					
Under 1 year of age ...	54·902	53	57	51	57
From Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	11·11	5·5	7·8	3·6	13·1
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	2·62	0·89	Not available		
Others...	3·92	2·19			
Total	6·54	3·08			
	Rates per 1,000 *Total Births* (*i.e. Live and Still*).				
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	2·519	0·86	Not available		
Others	3·778	2·11			
Total	6·297	2·97			
NOTIFICATIONS :—					
Puerperal fever ...	27·783	14·42	18·08	12·51	3·53
Puerperal pyrexia ...					15·46

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Clinical Research Association Ltd., of London, carry out all laboratory examinations for us. The examinations consist mainly of throat swabbing for Klebs-Loeffler Bacilli (Diphtheria) sputa for tubercle bacilli and blood tests for Typhoid Fever. In addition, the Association carries out examinations, both chemical and bacteriological, of water and milk.

The work has been done in a satisfactory manner. During the year the following pathological examinations were made :—

	Positive.	*Negative.*	*Total.*
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	2	16	18
Throat Swabbings for Klebs-Loeffler Bacilli (Diphtheria)	35	269	304
Nose Swabbings for Klebs-Loeffler Bacilli...	3	15	18
Ear Swabbings for Klebs-Loeffler Bacilli ...	—	1	1
Specimens of Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1	1
Specimens of Urine for Bacillus Typhosus...	—	3	3
Specimens of Faeces for Bacillus Typhosus	—	3	3
	40	308	348

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

As stated in my Report for 1937, a new Talbot 25 h.p. motor ambulance has been purchased by the Council. This vehicle has been in use during the year, the old Bedford ambulance being used as a standby. The new ambulance has given every satisfaction and the Council's foresight in providing so efficient a vehicle has been greatly appreciated.

The ambulances are garaged and maintained by Messrs. A. Norman Reeves, and this firm have had telephones fitted in the homes of two members of their staff, and so when a call is given in the middle of the night, it is passed direct to one or other of the two men, according to the duty rota. On no occasion has delay in turning out, night or day, come to my notice.

The Council have reciprocal arrangements with the Hayes and Harlington U.D.C. and the Ruislip-Northwood U.D.C.

As regards Yiewsley and West Drayton U.D.C., that authority pays this Council for any journey made in connection with its district. We also protect part of Eton R.D.

During 1938 the ambulances covered a distance of 6,023 miles, carrying 685 patients.

AMBULANCE CHARGES.

Anywhere in the Uxbridge District	5/–
Out of Uxbridge Urban District :—	
To any London Hospital from within the district	21/– for residents.
To West London Hospital from within the district	15/– for residents.
9d. per mile elsewhere, with a minimum of ...	7/6 for residents.
1s. per mile elsewhere, with a minimum of ...	10/– for non-residents.

Extra attendant, 2s. per hour. Waiting, 2s. 6d. per hour.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There has been no change in the arrangements for nursing in the home.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

School Children—Minor Ailments : Whitehall Council School, Uxbridge, 9.30 a.m., Tuesdays and Fridays. Medical Officer, Dr. Kate Glyn-Jones attends Fridays.
Harefield Council School, 9.30 a.m., Wednesdays. Dr. R. A. Jones.

do. Opthalmic : Whitehall Council School, Mondays, 2.30 p.m., Thursdays, 9.30 a.m.

do. Dental : Whitehall Council School and Oak Farm Council School.

Tuberculosis : Dr. J. T. Nichol-Roe, Tuberculosis Physician to the Middlesex County Council, attends at the Dispensary, 156, High Street, Uxbridge, on Thursdays, at 2.30 p.m.

Venereal Diseases : There are no centres for the treatment of Venereal Diseases within the District, but notices are posted up, showing when and where treatment can be obtained free of cost under conditions of secrecy, in the London Hospitals.
The nearest Clinic is at the West London Hospital, from 7.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m., and on Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon.

Ante-Natal : 109, High Street, Uxbridge. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month, 9.30 a.m. Dr. Kate Glyn-Jones.

Midwives : Oak Farm School, Long Lane, Hillingdon. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2 p.m.

Welfare : Hillingdon Central, British Legion Hall, Uxbridge Road. Tuesdays and Fridays, 2.30 p.m. Dr. H. W. Moir.
Harefield Memorial Hall. Thursdays, 2.30 p.m. Dr. Tibbles.
New Methodist Hall, High Road, Hayes End. Thursdays and Fridays, 2.30 p.m. Dr. R. H. Shelley.
St. Andrew's Hall, Uxbridge. Thursdays, 2.30 p.m. Dr. Kate Glyn-Jones.
Ickenham, New Church Hall. Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m. Dr. R. A. Jones.
109, High Street, Uxbridge. Tuesdays and Fridays, 2.30 p.m. Dr. Kate Glyn-Jones.
Oak Farm Council School, Long Lane, Hillingdon. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 2.30 p.m. Dr. R. A. Jones.

HOSPITALS.

The hospitals and institutions in this Urban District are :—

(*a*) General Hospital (Public) : The Middlesex County Hospital at Hillingdon has 285 beds and cots. 1,323 persons were admitted to this hospital from Uxbridge Urban District during 1938.

(*b*) Institution : The Hillingdon Institution and The Furze have accommodation for approximately 92 healthy persons and the Infirmary Block for chronic cases (males and females) has accommodation for approximately 109.

(*c*) Cottage Hospital : (Voluntary)

The Uxbridge and District Cottage Hospital, Harefield Road, has 22 beds available (including two private wards) ; is maintained by voluntary subscription.

(*d*) Tuberculosis :

The Middlesex County Sanatorium at Harefield has accommodation for 378 persons (males 150, females 150, children 60, observation beds 18).

(*e*) Infectious Diseases Hospital :

The Uxbridge Joint Isolation Hospital, Kingston Lane, Uxbridge.

This is maintained by a Board comprised of representatives of its four constituent Local Authorities : Uxbridge, Yiewsley and West Drayton, Hayes and Harlington, and Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Councils.

Cases admitted to this Hospital are : Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Erysipelas, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Encephalitis Lethargica, Acute Polio-Encephalitis, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, and complicated cases of Measles, Whooping Cough, Influenza and Pneumonia.

The Hospital has beds for 12 Diphtheria cases, 24 Scarlet Fever cases, and there are 12 cubicles for cases where cross-infection has arisen.

During 1938, 163 persons were admitted to the Hospital from Uxbridge Urban District ; 88 Scarlet Fever and 75 Diphtheria.

(*f*) Maternity :

None. Cases are sent to Hillingdon County Hospital by arrangement.

(*g*) Children's Hospitals :

None. Patients are treated at Hillingdon County Hospital.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSION OF PATIENTS TO HOSPITALS.

The County Hospital, Hillingdon (General) :

Medical practitioners are advised to communicate direct with the Medical Officer of the Hospital, telephone No. Uxbridge 1782, to arrange for removal of patients to the Hospital. It is advisable to leave a note at the house of the patient stating reasons for admission. Where public assistance is required, the nearest relatives should accompany the patient to give details to the Almoner at the Hospital.

Infectious Diseases Hospital :

Medical practitioners should telephone to the Matron at Uxbridge 128 and ask for arrangements to be made for the patient's removal.

Small Pox ;

Medical practitioners should communicate by telephone to the Public Health Department (Uxbridge 900) or after hours with my house (Uxbridge 80).

TREATMENT OF PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

The Public Health Act of 1936, which came into operation on 1st October, 1937, removed an anomaly which has existed since 1926, when the term " puerperal pyrexia " was coined. Since that time two literally synonymous phrases have been in use to describe two notifiable clinical conditions of fever during the lying-in period. The Public Health Act of 1936 ceases to recognise " puerperal fever " as a notifiable condition and the term " puerperal pyrexia " now embraces all notifiable conditions of raised temperature occurring during the puerperium.

During the year it was not found necessary to call Dr. Wyatt into consultation with any Uxbridge cases.

Of the thirty cases of puerperal pyrexia occurring during the year, 28 were treated in the Hillingdon County Hospital and two at home.

TREATMENT OF OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

The scheme of the Middlesex County Council for the treatment of ophthalmia neonatorum, occurring in infants living in the maternity and child welfare area for which the County Council is responsible, provides for :—

(1) The admission of infants suffering from the disease, accompanied by their mothers, to St. Margaret's Hospital (London County Council Special Hospitals Service).
(2) The domiciliary nursing of cases.

No cases occurred during 1938.

STEAM DISINFECTOR.

The building is situated in Cowley Mill Road and contains a Manlove Alliott High Pressure Steam Disinfector of oval form with a chamber capacity of 60 cubic feet. The disinfector is fitted with vacuum producing and hot air apparatus and a special fitting for use with chemical disinfectants ; a recording gauge is attached to the apparatus. Steam is produced in an oil-fired cross-tube vertical boiler of four nominal horse-power having an evaporation of approximately 200 pounds of steam per hour at a maximum pressure of 80 pounds per square inch.

The plant is working satisfactorily and efficiently.

The Council maintains an Austin 12/4 motor-van for the purpose of carrying bedding to and from the Disinfector Station.

During the year 1938 the following articles were disinfected :—

Slum Clearance.

Beds	79	Mattresses	103
Covers	11	Quilts	59
Bolsters	73	Bedspreads	11
Pillows	205	Sundries	106
Blankets	216		—
Sheets	89		992
Eiderdowns	39		—

Prevention of Infectious Disease.

Beds	50	Mattresses	165
Covers	36	Quilts	62
Bolsters	95	Bedspreads	50
Pillows	337	Sundries	127
Blankets	370		—
Sheets	401		1,765
Eiderdowns	72		—

RECREATION GROUNDS.

The Council is to be congratulated on the foresight shown from time to time in acquiring various open spaces.

During the summer months the Hillingdon and Uxbridge Silver Prize Band plays regularly on Sunday evenings on certain of the Grounds and on Tuesday evenings on the Fassnidge Memorial Recreation Ground.

I give below the location and areas of the Open Spaces within our boundaries :—

Commons :	*Acres.*
Watts Common, Harefield	5·33
The Green, Harefield	4·66
Ickenham Green	22·80
Ickenham Marsh	18·44
Coney Green, Hillingdon	9·76
No Man's Land, Hillingdon	3·95
Colham Green, Sheepwash	0·21
Uxbridge Common	14·56
George Square	0·50
The Old Burial Ground	1·00
Total	81·21

Parks and Recreation Grounds :	*Acres.*
Taylor's Meadow Recreation Ground, Harefield	11·93
Mount Pleasant Recreation Ground, Harefield	32·42
Mount Pleasant, Bell's Sports Ground, Harefield	
Hillingdon Court Park	57·23
Connaught Recreation Ground	2·94
Extension to above, 1929	4·74
Fassnidge Memorial Recreation Ground	8·00
Rockingham Recreation Ground	12·75
Extension to Rockingham Recreation Ground	1·51
Manor Waye Recreation Ground	2·50
Hillingdon House Farm Estate	149·00
Addition to Hillingdon House Farm Estate	2·65
Cowley Hall Recreation Ground	15·86
The Drive, Swakeleys Recreation Ground	2·03
Oak Farm	32·00
Total	335·56

Other Open Spaces :	*Acres.*
Ivy House Estate	19·11
Madfield Covert	3·00
Swakeleys Estate, Ickenham	32.00
Parkway, Hillingdon	1·40
Oak Farm Estate (Yeading Brook Belt)	2·26
Yeading Brook Belt	133·98
Harefield Place Reservation	132·00
Polehill Road and Polehill Farm	56·00
Breakspear, Harefield (part of Green Belt)	572·00
Total	951·75

Total Area of Open Spaces in District, 1,368·52 acres, or 13·4 per cent. of the area of the District. In addition to this there are several small spaces and roadside wastes.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND LOCAL REGULATIONS,

relating to the Public Health in force in this District :

The Baths and Washhouses Acts, 1846 to 1899.
The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.
The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
The Museums and Gymnasiums Act (Gymnasiums only), 1891.
The Private Street Works Act, 1892.
The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Parts II., III., V., VI., and Sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66 and 67 of Part IV., and Section 95.
The Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923.
The Public Health Act, 1925.
The Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Bye-Laws relating to :

Common Lodging Houses, 1887.
Nuisances, 1887.
Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies and Ashpits, 1887.
Offensive Trades, 1887.
Uxbridge Common, 1902.
New Streets and Buildings, 1907.
Trade of a Dealer in Rags, Bones, etc., 1913.
Disused Burial Ground (Uxbridge), 1915.
Fassnidge Memorial Recreation Ground, 1927.
Pleasure Grounds and Open Spaces, 1927.
Houses Let in Lodgings, 1929.
Slaughterhouses, 1929.
Gipsy Encampments (Middlesex County Council), 1931.
Open Spaces (Ickenham Green and Ickenham Marsh), 1931.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District has a piped supply of water from two undertakings :—

(*a*) That of the Council which supplies the wards of Uxbridge and Hillingdon West ; and

(*b*) That of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company, which supplies the remainder of the area.

A number of isolated houses derive their supplies of water from shallow wells.

Nine samples have been taken for chemical and bacteriological examination from the Council's Water undertaking and five from the mains of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company. The results have always shown the water to be of a satisfactory degree of purity and safe for drinking purposes.

During the year 26 samples were taken from 17 wells within the District. In two instances analyses showed the water to be fit for drinking purposes and no further action was taken. Thirteen samples proved to be unfit for drinking purposes and of this number six were from wells supplying properties included in the Council's Slum Clearance Scheme at Harefield, and the tenants were warned to take precautionary measures until such time as they could be rehoused ; in four cases notices were served upon the owners of the properties concerned requiring them to provide proper mains supplies. The remaining five are receiving further consideration.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Under the Middlesex County Council Act of 1898, and subsequent Acts, the Middlesex County Council has power to supervise, cleanse, and maintain the rivers and streams in the County, with the exception of the Thames and the Lea, which are maintained by the Thames Conservancy Board and the Lea Conservancy Board respectively.

The work is carried out by the Department of the County Engineer.

There has been no observed pollution of rivers and streams in the District during 1938.

PONDS AND DITCHES.

Various ponds and ditches in all parts of the District were sprayed with a solution of Larvaecide during the summer months in an effort to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes, etc.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are about 67 earth closets and privies in the District and approximately 111 houses drained to cesspools. Of these 53 were dealt with by the Bedford Exhauster, 27 by contractors, and in other cases allowances were made to the owners for emptying their own cesspools.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year 1938 the three Fordson Tractors and five Eagle Trailers were taken off the work of house refuse collection and were replaced by three new Karrier 10 cubic yard collection vehicles. The Ford 30 cwt. lorry, the Bedford lorry and the four horses and carts were still employed upon refuse collection.

The three Karriers with the Bedford collect refuse from southern Harefield, Hillingdon East, Ickenham, Cowley and the R.A.F. Depot east of the River Pinn.

The Ford lorry collects from northern Harefield and Uxbridge Cottage Hospital.

The four horses and carts collect all refuse from the Uxbridge and Hillingdon West Wards.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

All house refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping on the following sites :—

Northern Harefield	Watts Common, Harefield.
Hillingdon, Ickenham, South Harefield and Cowley	Harlington Road Pit, Harlington.
Uxbridge and Hillingdon West	Uxbridge Sewage Disposal Works.

Refuse from Earth Closets and Privies.

The Harefield earth closets are cleansed by contract, and the Contractor has arranged for tip and the necessary covering.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

During the year 445 cesspools were cleansed with the Council's Bedford exhauster, representing 1,749 loads or 568,435 gallons.

Contractors emptied 24 privy pits and cesspools (Hillingdon East 2, Harefield 22).

QUANTITY OF REFUSE COLLECTED AND DISPOSED OF.

The following table gives the quantity of house refuse collected and disposed of during 1938 :—

	System.	*No. of Loads.*	*Cub. Yds.*	*Tons.*
Uxbridge and Hillingdon West	Horse and Cart ...	3,360	10,080	3,190·3
North Harefield	Ford Lorry ...	630½	2,552½	781·0
Hillingdon, Ickenham, South Harefield and Cowley	Karrier and Bedford Lorries	3,585½	27,821½	6,329·3
Totals		7,576	40,454	10,300·6

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

INSPECTIONS.

No. of Premises Inspected on Complaint of Nuisance	278
No. of Premises Inspected in connection with Infectious Diseases ...	169
No. of Premises under periodical Inspections	263
Total Number of Inspections and Re-inspections made	4,718
No. of Inspections under Shops (Hours) Acts, 1912-28	11
Nuisances Discovered and Abated	308
Informal Notices	236
Statutory Notices Served	9
No. of Factories Inspected	64
No. of Visits to Dairies	73
No. of Visits to Cowsheds	39
No. of Visits to Slaughterhouses	121

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF WORK INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE FIGURES :—

New Drainage Systems Provided (to existing buildings only)	6
Drains Cleaned and Repaired	42
Drains Examined and Tested	37
New Sinks and Lavatory Basins Provided	9
W.C.s Cleansed, Repaired and Renewed	31
Additional W.C. and Urinal Accommodation Provided	4
New Soil Pipes and Vents	9
Water-waste Preventers Repaired and Renewed	39
Rainwater Gutters and Pipes	11
Defective Sink and Bath Wastes Repaired	25
Houses requiring Walls, Ceilings, Floors, Roofs, etc., Repaired (not including those under Housing Act)	—

Premises Limewashed	—
Verminous Conditions Remedied (including Van Treatment of Furniture)	116
Yards Paved	7
New Inspection Chambers, etc.	6
New Dustbins Provided	44
Damp Conditions Remedied (not including those under Housing Act)...	—
Foul Dung Pits, Ditches, Manure Heaps, and Accumulations of Rubbish Remedied	51
Overcrowding Remedied	9
Water Samples Taken	40
Council Houses Inspected	88
Bakehouses Limewashed	5
Various	79

DISINFECTION.

163 rooms were disinfected.

Disinfection of clothing and bedding has been by steam sterilizer, and rooms and furniture by formalin spray and vapour.

FACTORIES.

Periodical inspection of these has been made, and on the whole they have been found satisfactory. See Table on page 19.

There were no instances discovered of outwork in unwholesome premises.

TENTS AND VANS, ETC., USED FOR HUMAN HABITATION.

87 Caravans were moved away from various parts of the District.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are two within the District.

RAG AND BONE STORES.

No contraventions of the Bye-Laws were discovered.

CANAL BOATS ACTS.

No new boats were registered during the year

SHOPS ACTS.

Several complaints of a minor nature were received and dealt with.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND PIGGERIES.

Dairies Reconditioned	1
Defective Floors Repaired	1
Limewashed under Notice	2
Nuisance from Accumulation of Refuse Abated	4
Piggeries Drained	–
Cowsheds Reconditioned	–

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

(*a*) Registered (including (*b*))	4
(*b*) Licensed	1

FACTORIES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Premises.	*Number of*		
	Inspections.	*Written Notices.*	*Occupiers Prosecuted.*
FACTORIES with mechanical power	71	4	—
FACTORIES without mechanical power ...	31	2	—
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises)	4	—	—
TOTALS	106	6	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

Particulars. (1)	*Number of Defects.*			*Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.* (5)
	Found. (2)	*Remedied.* (3)	*Referred to H.M. Inspector.* (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	6	6	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) unsuitable or defective ...	4	4	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences ... ... (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)...	2	2	—	—
Total	12	12	—	—

SHOPS ACTS, 1912–1936.

Several complaints of a minor nature were received and dealt with.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year observations were made for the excessive emission of smoke from the chimneys of factories and workplaces within the District. In four cases it was necessary to draw the attention of the managements concerned to the excessive emission of smoke, and upon subsequent observations the nuisances were found to be abated.

SWIMMING BATH.

The Council Bathing Pool was opened for public swimming from 7th May, 1938, to 26th September, 1938, when it was closed on a state of emergency being declared, and taken over as a temporary First-Aid Station.

During the season, 77,287 persons used the Pool for bathing, and a further 6,624 spectators were admitted.

The total water consumption was 1,250,000 gallons which included the initial filling of 480,000 gallons.

The highest water temperature recorded was 77 degrees on 4th August, while the average temperature throughout the season was 65 degrees.

Bacteriological analysis was taken under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, and this showed the water to be in such a condition as to be perfectly good for public bathing. The result of this analysis is shown below. The filtration plant was worked efficiently, and proved capable of dealing with a peak load of 3,000 bathers in one day.

Casualties were in the majority of cases confined to minor cuts and abrasions, and the attention of the Medical Officer of Health was required on only one occasion, of slight concussion caused by a fall.

Hired costumes and towels were dealt with efficiently by an outside laundry service.

LABORATORY REPORT.

(I) Quantitative.

The average number of organisms, producing colonies on agar plates incubated at 20°C. for three days was found to be ... 12 per c.c.

The average number of organisms, producing visible colonies on agar plates incubated at 37·5°C. for two days, was found to be 8 per c.c.

(II) Qualitative.

B. Coli ... ... Not found in 100 c.c.

Streptococci ... ... Not found in 30 c.c.

The results show that the total number of organisms present is very low and the water is quite safe for bathing.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

I give below particulars of the action taken for the eradication of bed bugs.

	Council Houses.	*Other Houses.*
No. of houses inspected	88	11
No. of houses found to be infested	14	4
No. of houses disinfested	14	4

All Council houses on becoming vacant are inspected for the presence of vermin, and the following action is taken if vermin are found :—

Any rubbish found in the house is immediately burned if possible in the grates of the houses, otherwise (for example, old furniture) it is taken into the garden and burned. All wooden fittings—picture rails, architraves, skirtings, etc., are driven away from the walls by means of hard-wood wedges, floor boards are lifted in such a way as to allow even diffusion of the fumigant under the floors, all openings—windows and fireplaces, etc., are sealed and a sufficient quantity of fumigant applied.

The advantages of this fumigant lie in its non-poisonous properties and the fact that it is visible in the form of a grey smoke, so that any external leakages may be readily sealed up after the fumigant is applied.

The house is then left for 24 hours if possible, but if occupied, six hours will suffice ; this enables the tenant to use the house for sleeping purposes the same evening. The hydrogen cyanide process would not permit of this and in any case is regarded as being too dangerous.

In some Council houses in cases of bad infestation the fumigant has been followed up by a high pressure spray of a proprietary vermicide before the woodwork is replaced.

There have been no instances reported during the year where vermin have reappeared after such treatment as outlined above.

In order to ensure that belongings of tenants are freed from vermin before removal into a Council house, one of two methods is adopted :—

Houses of applicants for Council houses are inspected and, if vermin are found, the application is only granted subject to the tenant allowing the Council to disinfest their furniture and effects. On the other hand, all furniture and effects removed from Clearance Areas is fumigated in vans as the tenants are moved to their new houses, and in the majority of instances the tenants have welcomed this proposal. The Council have two pantechnicon vans in which the furniture is placed. These are then drawn by horses to some convenient and secluded place where a fumigant is applied, and then the vans are sealed and left for six hours. The doors are then opened and the contents of the vans allowed to air. They are then driven to the new houses and unloaded.

Where cases of bad infestation have been treated these are kept under supervision and the tenants advised of their part in the destruction of the pests. If further infestation is detected immediate action is taken.

During the year 98 removals were done in this way.

All work of disinfestation is carried out by the Council's own workmen. Your Public Health Department keeps in touch with all new developments in fumigation technique.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The Middlesex County Council are the authority under this Act and the work of the inspectors of rat destruction is to a large extent advisory, and it is their duty to see that, as far as practicable, occupiers do not allow their premises to become or to remain infested. During the year, the Council's inspector of rat destruction paid 53 visits to rat infested premises in Uxbridge. Work of rat destruction has been carried out by the County rat-catchers during the year at your Council's refuse dumps at Harlington Road, Cowley Moor and Watts Common.

SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO CONTROL BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

There are no special classes of premises and occupations subject to control by the Local Authority other than those governed under Bye-Laws. These are referred to elsewhere.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

There are no other sanitary conditions requiring notice.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928.

During 1938 it was not found necessary to take any action under these Acts.

SCHOOLS.

All the public schools in this District are under the control of the Middlesex County Council. These are 19 in all, with a total of 5,124 pupils. They are all provided with a water supply from the mains and the sanitary conditions are good.

School.	*Department.*	*No. on Roll 31/12/1938.*
Uxbridge Senior Council	Mixed	426
Whitehall Council	Junior	336
Whitehall Council	Infants	238
Belmont Road Council	Infants	91
St. Andrew's C.E.	Girls	67
St. Andrew's C.E.	Infants	69
St. John's C.E.	Juniors and Infants ...	83
St. Mary's R.C.	Mixed	190
Cowley C.E....	Juniors and Infants ...	212
Hillingdon Council	Juniors	398
Hillingdon C.E.	Infants	201
Hillingdon R.C.	Infants	100
Oak Farm Council	Juniors	562
Oak Farm Council	Infants	491
Harefield Council	Mixed	353
Harefield Council	Infants	147
Swakeleys Council	Senior Mixed	418
Breakspear Council...	Juniors and Infants ...	249
		4,631
SECONDARY.		
Bishopshalt	Mixed	493
	Total	5,124

We receive notifications from the Head Teachers of schools to the effect that certain pupils are absent, either as suffering from or as contacts with a case of infectious disease, and full advantage is taken of the information provided by them.

Where a case of infectious disease arises involving a school child, either as patient or contact, a notice of "Exclusion from school to prevent the spread of infectious disease" is issued by this Department, specifying the exclusion period.

It was not found necessary to close any school or part of a school to prevent the spread of infectious disease.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

During the year under review the following action was taken with regard to the Council's Clearance Areas :—

COWLEY.

The rehousing of the persons from these areas was completed during the early part of the year under review.

HAREFIELD.

A Public Local Enquiry was held on the 10th March, 1938, and Confirmation Orders were made by the Minister of Health in respect of the following clearance areas in which 85 houses and 275 persons were involved :—

Breakspear Road North, C.A. No. 1.
Breakspear Road South, C.A.
High Street, C.A. No. 1.
High Street, C.A. No. 3.
High Street, C.A. No. 4.
High Street, C.A. No. 6.
High Street, C.A. No. 7.
High Street, Beckleys Yard, C.A.
Hill End, C.A.
Park Lane, C.A. No. 1.
Park Lane, C.A. No. 2.
Rickmansworth Road, C.A.
Summerhouse Field Land, C.A. No. 2.

Undertakings were accepted from the owners of the following properties to render the houses fit for human habitation :—

1-7, Canal Side.
126, High Street.

An agreement was accepted that the under-mentioned property should be demolished upon the death of the aged owner-occupier, and it was not included in a Confirmation Order :—

57, High Street.

Agreements were accepted from the owners to convert and recondition the following houses subject to the Council receiving the Government subsidy in respect of the persons to be displaced :—

1-5, Workhouse Cottages, Breakspear Road North.
1-10 and 24-34, Kings Cottages, Moorhall Road.

It was agreed that the following properties should be converted to business premises subject to the Council receiving the Government subsidy in respect of the persons to be displaced :—

1-5, Mill Cottages, Summerhouse Field Lane.

UXBRIDGE, HILLINGDON WEST AND ICKENHAM.

The requisite orders were made by the Council on the 22nd February, 1938, and a Public Local Enquiry held on the 24th May, 1938. The Minister of Health made Confirmation Orders in respect of the following areas in which 80 houses and 264 persons were involved :—

Bennetts Yard C.A.
Bonseys Yard C.P.O.
Culvert Lane C.A.
High Street C.A.
Honeycroft Hill C.A.
St. John's Road C.P.O.
Warwick Place C.A.
Whitehall Road C.A.
Glebe Avenue and Pear Tree Cottage C.P.O.

The following property was excluded by the Minister as being fit for human habitation :—

2, Honeycroft Hill.

Action was taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 (Individual Demolition) in respect of the following properties which were in the original slum clearance scheme :—

1, 2, 3, 4 Gas Works Cottages, Cowley Mill Road.

During the past year 30 Orders have been made requiring the demolition of individual houses unfit for human habitation.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year.

1. (*a*) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)... 211
   (*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 586
2. (*a*) Number of Dwelling Houses (included in sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ... Nil
   (*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ... Nil
3. Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. * (*These have been dealt with as Clearance Areas.)
4. Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 60

(2) Remedy of Defects During the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 5

(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

(*a*) *Proceedings under Sections* 9, 10 *and* 16 *of the Housing Act,* 1936.

1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs 7
2. Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :
   (*a*) By Owners 7
   (*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil

(*b*) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... ... ... Nil
2. Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :
   (*a*) By Owners ... ... Nil
   (*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil

(*c*) *Proceedings under Sections* 11 *and* 13 *of the Housing Act,* 1936.

1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 30
2. Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 5

(*d*) *Proceedings under Section* 12 *of the Housing Act*, 1936.

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil

2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil

(4) Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

(*a*) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 198

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 198

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 1,211

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 1

(*c*) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 9

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 81

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling Houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... Nil

ERECTION OF HOUSES.

I regret it is not possible to give you a statement of the number of houses erected in each ward, as you will remember that an alteration of the Ward boundaries took effect on the 1st April last.

The only available figures are therefore set out below.

(*a*) Total number of new houses erected during the year, including those given separately under (*b*) 1,002

(*b*) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts 180

The total number of Council houses occupied at the end of the year was 1,421.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

All the farms and dairies in the District are inspected at least four times during the course of each year. There are 41 persons registered with this Council as Retail Purveyors and 16 as producers.

Nineteen licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, for the sale of graded milks.

Samples of milk have been taken regularly from all retailers within the District. In the majority of instances these have been of a satisfactory standard, but in four cases animal inoculation tests proved the presence of live tubercle bacilli in the samples. These results were conveyed to the Middlesex County Council whose Inspector visited the farms concerned and found in each instance a cow suffering from tuberculosis. These animals were immediately slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat shops, stalls, slaughter-houses and food premises have been the subject of regular inspection and the conditions are generally satisfactory. There is no meat-marketing scheme under part 3 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1934.

During 1938 the following carcases were inspected at various slaughter-houses in the District :—

Beasts	73
Sheep	461
Calves	26
Pigs	407
Total	967

The principal items of food condemned and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption were :—

Meat, Hams, Tinned Meat, Tinned Fruit, Fish, etc. ... approx. 1,086 lbs.

ADULTERATION OF FOODS.

By courtesy of the Chief Officer of the Public Control Department of the Middlesex County Council, I give below particulars of the action taken with regard to adulterated or misrepresented food.

Articles Sampled.	*No. Taken.*	*No. Adulterated or Misrepresented.*
Milk	125	—
Gin	1	—
Minced Beef	1	—
Rum	1	—
Sausages	1	—
Whisky	2	—
Zinc Ointment	1	—
	132	—

No prosecutions were taken during the year.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Chemical and bacteriological examination of food is carried out for us when necessary by the Clinical Research Association, Ltd. No samples were submitted during the year.

NUTRITION.

At the County Council's schools arrangements are in force whereby children may receive a third of a pint of milk at school for ½d. These arrangements are made under the scheme of the Milk Marketing Board and the source of the milk supply is approved by the County Medical Officer of Health and the Local Medical Officer of Health. Only pasteurised milk has been approved.

In addition to the above arrangements, children certified by the Assistant School Medical Officers to be in need of extra nourishment are supplied with milk and/or cod liver oil in school, free or at reduced price, if necessary. Some children may be sent for a stay at a residential special open-air school, either in the country or at the seaside.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease.	*Ages of Cases Notified.*												*Total* 1938	*Total* 1937	*Total Cases Admitted to Hospital* 1938	1937	*Deaths* 1938	1937
	Under One Year	1 *to* 2	2 *to* 3	3 *to* 4	4 *to* 5	5 *to* 10	10 *to* 15	15 *to* 20	20 *to* 35	35 *to* 45	45 *to* 65	65 *and upwards*						
Scarlet Fever	—	1	5	3	5	40	11	10	15	3	—	—	93	135	88	124	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	3	1	3	36	16	4	10	2	—	—	75	26	75	26	3	5
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	2	—	—
Erysipelas...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	5	—	4	3	14	12	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	20	7	—	—	30	22	28	19	2	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	7	2	7	—	—
Continued Fever...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	5	6	12	3	32	49	4	18	20	32
Small-pox...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ...	See Table																	
,, (Non-Pulmonary)...	Do.																	
Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—
Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.						Deaths.					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	1	1	1	2
5—15	4	—	4	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	7	5	12	3	2	5	—	1	1	1	1	2
25—35	3	5	8	1	1	2	1	3	4	1	—	1
35—45	5	4	9	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	3	1	4	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—
55—65	2	1	3	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
65 and up	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	25	16	41	6	6	12	8	4	12	3	2	5

Ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths, 10 : 17

I am pleased to point out that there has been a further reduction in the number of deaths from Tuberculosis this year.

Of the total of 53 new cases of Tuberculosis added to the register during the year 17 were transferred from other districts.

DIPHTHERIA.

During 1938, 75 cases of diphtheria were notified. I regret this shows an increase on last year's figures. I am pleased to report a reduction in deaths from the disease from five in 1937 to three in 1938.

During the year several cases of diphtheria occurred in children who attended, or who were contacts of children attending St. Bernadotte's Roman Catholic School, Long Lane, Hillingdon. 52 children were swabbed by your Medical Officer of Health. All these swabs proved to be negative. No further cases occurred which were connected with the school after this swabbing.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

As reported last year, arrangements were made with the Hayes and Harlington Urban District Council whereby children residing in this District could undergo immunisation treatment at their Clinic at Hayes Cottage Hospital, the cost of such treatment to be borne by this Council.

This arrangement was continued during 1938.

During the year under review 36 children attended the Clinic.

SCARLET FEVER.

There was a considerable reduction in the number of cases of scarlet fever notified : 135 occurred in 1937 and 93 in 1938. Of the latter, 13 cases occurred in the Royal Air Force Depot.

The cases were generally of a mild character and no deaths were recorded.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Thirty cases of puerperal pyrexia, which is any febrile condition occurring in a woman within 21 days after childbirth or miscarriage, were notified during the year. 28 cases were treated in Hillingdon County Hospital, and two at home. I would point out that of the cases admitted to the Hospital, 15 were from outside the Urban District. Two deaths occurred during the year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

As you will have seen earlier in this Report, no cases occurred during 1938.

ENTERIC FEVER.

One case of paratyphoid fever occurred during 1938.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

Two cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis occurred in the Royal Air Force Camp during the year and were isolated in their own hospital. There were no civilian cases.

MEASLES.

You will have seen under the heading " Deaths " that two persons died from measles during 1938.

CHICKEN POX.

This disease is not notifiable within the Uxbridge Urban District, so that I am unable to give you figures of the number of cases, of which there were, undoubtedly, many in the area. Children and their contacts were excluded by the Head Teachers of schools, but I was sorry to notice the casual way in which the parents dealt with this disease. In many cases no medical practitioner was called in and children were allowed to run about the streets, in some cases, with the skin eruption still present.

The disease is contagious and may lead to complications.

INFLUENZA.

There was considerably less influenza during the last year and the usual winter epidemic appeared to be of a milder character. There were only two deaths from the disease, as compared with 16 in 1937.

SMALL POX.

There have been no cases of this disease for some years, but the Middlesex County Council have made full arrangements with the London County Council for the use of beds at an isolation hospital and a special ambulance, if required.

SUPPLY OF PROPHYLACTIC SERA.

A supply of diphtheria anti-toxin and anti-meningococcus serum is kept at the Public Health Department and a small quantity of each at my residence—The Red House, High Street, Uxbridge. Medical practitioners can obtain these on application to the office or at my house *when* the office is closed.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

During 1938 the Council, in common with all other Local Authorities in the country, formed a new Department, the Air Raid Precautions Department. This Department had not long been inaugurated when the grave September International Crisis arose.

At a moment's notice, it was found necessary to organise the Public Health Department to cope with all possible casualties should hostilities have commenced.

During the week when the situation was at its gravest, the whole of the Public Health Department Staff remained on duty until late in the evening. I was in close touch with the County Medical Officer, and by this co-operation, along with the work done by the staff, arrangements were made for ample first-aid facilities to be available in every part of the District, while many tradesmen's covered motor-vans were volunteered for use as emergency auxiliary ambulances.

Arrangements were completed for the staffing of these First-Aid Posts, while large orders were immediately placed with local and wholesale chemists in order to obtain all necessary dressings, etc., at current rates.

As you know, these arrangements happily proved to be unnecessary, but the experience gained has been of assistance in drawing up the present A.R.P. Medical Services scheme.

INDEX

	PAGE
Air Raid Precautions	29
Ambulance Charges	10
Ambulance Facilities	10
Area	4
Bed Bugs	20
Births	6
Birth Rate	6
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	29
Chicken Pox	29
Clinics	11
Closet Accommodation	16
Deaths—Causes	7
Deaths—Infants	7
Deaths—Puerperal	7
Death Rate	6
Diphtheria	28
Disinfector	13
Disinfestation	20
Drainage and Sewerage	16
Enteric Fever	29
Factories	19
Food Adulteration	26
,, Examination	25
,, Supervision	25
Geography	3
Geology	4
Hospitals	11
Hospitals—Admission to	12
Houses—Number of Inhabited	4
Houses—Number of New, Erected	25
Housing Statistics	24
Industries	4
Infectious Disease, Table Prevalence, etc.	27, 28
Influenza	29

	PAGE
Laboratory Facilities	10
Legislation	15
Measles	29
Meat	25
Milk Supply and Distribution	25
Nursing in the Home	11
Nutrition	26
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	13, 29
Overcrowding Survey	25
Penny Rate—Product of	4
Ponds and Ditches	16
Population	4
Public Cleansing	16
Public Health Committee	1
Public Health Department—Officers	2
Puerperal Fever	13
Puerperal Pyrexia	13, 29
Rag Flock Acts	21
Rateable Value	4
Rats and Mice	21
Recreation Grounds	14
Refuse Disposal	16
Rivers and Streams	16
Sanitary Inspection	17
Scarlet Fever	28
Schools	22
Sera—Supply of	29
Shops Acts, 1912-1936	19
Sickness, Causes of	5
Slum Clearance	22
Small Pox	29
Smoke Abatement	19
Social Conditions	4
Street Accidents	8
Swimming Bath	20
Treatment Centres	11
Tuberculosis	28
Unemployment	5
Vital Statistics	9
Vital Statistics—Comparison of	5
Water Samples—Analyses	15, 16
Water Supply	15
West Middlesex Main Drainage	16
Workplaces	4
Workshops	4